13th November 1965]

Scarcity of Kerosene oil

* 228 Q.—SRI M. SANKARALINGAM PILLAI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Food be pleased to state—

(a) the reason for the scarcity of kerosene oil in the State at present; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to relieve the scarcity?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH: (a) There is no appreciable shortage in quantity. The short supply is due to various other factors, viz., transport bottlenecks, defective distribution and so on.

(b) The Government of India have acquired powers under the Defence of India Rules to fix the prices, to inspect and direct the proper maintenance of accounts and to regulate the supply and distribution of kerosene. Necessary instructions have been issued to the Collectors in this regard. The representatives of the various oil companies have also been requested to co-operate in the supply and distribution of kerosene oil. The Government are closely watching the situation prevailing in all parts of the State and immediate action will be taken to rush supplies to the deficit pockets as and when scarcity is reported in any part of the State. The situation has improved considerably.

DR. H. V. HANDE: Are the Government aware that the public in Madras City are put to hardship by the Government in not making kerosene oil easily available? The public are made to go to the Collector's office by the shop owners for collecting their cards. May I know, Sir, whether the Government are aware of it?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH: There was shortage in Madras City. Now the situation has changed, because the Government have decided to supply the oil through family cards. For getting family cards, they will have to bear with the small inconvenience.

திரு. ஆர். வெங்கடாசலம்: மண்ணெண்ணெய் பற்றாக்குறையில்லையென்று அமைச்சர் அவர்கள் தெரிவித்தார்கள். ஆனால் இப்போது ஒரு லிட்டர் ஒரு ரூபாய்விதம் கிராமப் பகுதிகளில் விற்கிறதே அதற்குக் காரணம் என்ன? அதைத் தடுக்க அரசாங்கம் என்ன முயற்சி எடுத்தது?

கனம் திரு. வி. ராமய்யா: மண்ணெண்ணெய் பொருத்தவரையில் பற்றாக்குறை அதிகமாக இல்லை என்றுதான் சொன்னேன். இருந்தாலும் பற்றாக்குறை ஏற்படக்கூடிய காரணம் என்னென்ன என்பதையும் நான் விவரமாக முக்கிய கேள்விக்கு பதில் சொல்லும் போது சொன்னேன். சில சந்தர்ப்பங்களில் போக்குவரத்தில் நெரிசல் ஏற்படுகிறது திடீரென்று. அதைப் பயன்படுத்திக் கொண்டு வியாபாரிகள் அதிக விலைக்கு விற்கிறார்கள். இனி அது ஏற்படாமல் இருக்க ஒவ்வொரு மாவட்டத்திற்கும் எவ்வளவு சப்ளை

வேண்டுமென்பதைப் பற்றி முன்கூட்டியே திட்டவட்டமாக அறிந்து அது அந்த மாவட்டத்திற்கு கிடைக்கும் விதத்தில் அரசாங்கம் கவனித்து வருகிறது.

DR. H. V. HANDE: Till yesterday, we have received complaints that the public are not getting kerosene oil immediately on demand. The shops refuse to give them cards. Will the Government issue necessary instructions for the issue of family cards by the shop owners and, if they fail to give cards, will the Government take action, Sir?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH: If the hon. Member writes to me a complaint, I will look into it.

Medical and Honorary Medical Officers

* 229 Q.—DR. H. V. HANDE (on behalf of Dr. T. V. Sivanandam): Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health pleased to state—

(a) the total number of paid medical officers in the headquarters hospitals at Coimbatore, Salem, Tiruchirappalli, Tirunelveli and Chingleput;

(b) the total number of Honorary Medical Officers in each of these hospitals; and

(c) number of (i) paid Medical Officers with post-graduate qualifications, and (ii) the number of Honorary Medical Officers with post-graduate qualifications in each of these hospitals ?

THE HON. SRIMATHI JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM: (a) to (c): A statement[a] is placed on the table of the House.

DR. H. V. HANDE: May I know, Sir, whether there is any proposal to increase the number of Honorary Medical Officers?

THE HON. SRIMATHI JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM: No, Sir.

Replantation of forests

* 230 Q.—SRI M. SANKARALINGAM PILLAI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Co-operation be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is any scheme of replantation of forests after periodic felling of trees in Kanyakumari district; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE HON. SRI N. S. S. MANRADIAR: (a) The answer is in the affirmative.

(b) Softwood, teak and rubber plantations are raised in the areas clearfelled in Kanyakumari district. The details of areas replanted up to 1964–65 are given below:—

Teak.—Two thousand and twenty-six (2,026) acres.

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a Printed as Appendix I on page 395.